

The Nicholson Residence  
1335 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio

HABS No. O-210

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OHIO  
18-1 AKWO  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
William A. Bohnard, District Officer,  
9815 Newton Avenue - Cleveland, Ohio.

## THE NICHOLSON HOUSE

Lakewood, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Owner: Descendant.Date of Erection: 1831.Architect: Not known.Builder: Not known.Present Condition: Good.Number of Stories: Two.Materials of Construction: Stone foundation. Timber construction.  
Frame walls.Other Existing Records: None.Additional Data: (See following page).

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

District 0-2 - Northern Ohio - William A. Bohmard

Project No. 0-2-10--THE NICHOLSON HOUSE,

James Nicholson was the first man to establish a permanent home between the west bank of the Cuyahoga River and the east bank of the Rocky River.

Like the majority of the people who settled in the Western Reserve, he was a typical Yankee; and as he was born and reared about Chatham, on Cape Cod, he was in reality a "born Yankee". He was born in 1783, and as soon as he attained his majority, packed his few belongings and started for Connecticut, as the Western Reserve was called by many at that time. He was induced to buy a tract of land near Conneaut - between that place and the Pennsylvania line - and he began to clear the land and erected a log cabin on that site.

It was in 1804 that James Nicholson broke ground in the forest near Pennsylvania, and he spent several years on that farm, and made quite an impression on the forests that had to be cleared away before a home could be established. It was here that he married Betsy Bartholemew, a young miss who had come out from Connecticut a few years before he had started out on his pioneer life, and who came into this western wilderness when she was yet in her early teens.

She knew much of pioneer life, and proved a wise helpmate for this young Easterner who had yet to learn the ways of pioneering in the forests of ~~the~~ new West.

While plucking away at the sleeve of nature in an effort to found a comfortable home in the northeast corner of Ashtabula County, Mr. Nicholson and his young wife were visited one day by a pioneer who had purchased a tract of land west of the Cuyahoga River, and who, tiring of his purchase or being more nearly satisfied with the prospects of Mr. Nicholson, wished to make a trade with him.

At this time Mr. Nicholson had never been farther west than Vienna, and only knew of conditions on the banks of the Cuyahoga River from hearsay. But the stranger's description of his lands - which proved to be within the site of the present city of Lakewood - interested him and after talking the matter over with his wife, he decided to visit the new settlement at the mouth of the Cuyahoga and then, if pleased with what he saw there, to wander out to this timber tract and look it over.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*

The Nicholson Residence  
13335 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio

HABE No. 0-210

Owner (or Custodian) Ezra Nicholson

Date of Erection Built about 1838

Architect

Builder James Nicholson

Present Condition In good condition. Has not changed  
much except for the differences in  
the windows.

Number of Stories Two stories

Materials of Construction Stone foundation. Timber  
construction. Frame walls.

Other Existing Records: Four photographs  
Three pages of history

Additional Data:

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The first home built in the Nicholson farm was a log cabin erected a short distance west of the present residence.

In 1838 the present home was built. All timber was cut on the farm, the drying was done on the home site, and the door frames, window frames, doors, and sash were made by hand on the site. Nearly everything used was hard lumber, making slow progress a certainty in the building of a house.

The dwelling as originally completed was such as it is now. The greatest difference being the windows; as first built, there were 24 in the main part, 12 small lights in each sash.

Nicholson Residence  
Lakewood, Ohio

HABS No. O-210

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Mr. Ezra Nicholson was the only survivor of his father's family. He was 80 years of age at his death and was the youngest member of the family. When born he was 15 years younger than the brother preceding him. He always lived in the old home, and came into possession of a large slice of his father's estate. He married at the age of 28 to Miss Alice A. Fowles, who when married was living with her uncle in Lakewood--Captain John Spalding, a well known sailor on the lakes. Theirs was a happy and prosperous union and both enjoyed good health with sons and daughters living in comfortable homes about them.

Historic American Buildings Survey  
William A. Bohnard, District Officer  
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